

REMARKS

Applicant cancels claim 11, and rewrites claim 12 in independent form including all of the limitations of its canceled base claim 11. Therefore, claims 1-10 and 12-18 are now pending in the present Application. Applicant amends independent claims 1, 13 and 18 to correct minor inconsistencies in terminology. These amendment do not narrow the scope of claims 1, 13 and 18. No estoppel is created.

Claims 1-10 and 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (Chen, EPA 0 859 500 A2) in view of Toru (Toru, JPA 08-285086).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative during the telephonic discussions of July 19 and 21, 2004. The following remarks constitute a request for reconsideration of the prior art rejection noted above, as well as a Statement of Substance of Interview.

As explained during the Examiner Interview, Applicant's claimed invention provides an information search system, a terminal and a center comprising unique combinations of features, including *inter alia*, speech communication between terminal and center via speech signals, speech recognition, and packet communication based on speech recognition for sending and receiving at least one of image information and character information by performing packet communication with the center (see Applicant's independent claims 1, 12, 13 and 18).

That is, as further explained during the interview, a feature of Applicant's claimed invention is not only recognition of a spoken search request received via a speech

communication, but also transmission by packet communication of at least one of image information and character information obtained based on the received and recognized spoken search request.

During subsequent discussion that took place in the Examiner Interview, it was noted that, as explained in Applicant's Response filed May 25, 2004, Chen discloses packet communication only in the context of "wireless packet services" where "the user need not establish a traditional phone call to extract simple information from the Internet" (see *Id.*, col. 5, lines 24-27; and col. 5, line 48 through col. 6, line 13).

That is, Chen discloses a method where information extracted based on a user's request is converted "via user presentation control software 43 to the appropriate end-user related protocol, i.e., either spoken voice, alphanumeric text, or a combination of both, and transmitted through the PSTN 22 to the user's telephone instrument" (*Id.*, col. 5, lines 9-14). While, Chen discloses that the desired information can be delivered to the user "in the appropriate voice and/or text format" (see *Id.*, col. 6, lines 36-39; see also *Id.*, col. 5, lines 9-19), Chen does not disclose, teach or suggest packet communication based on speech recognition for sending and receiving at least one of image information and character information by performing packet communication with the center, as recited in Applicant's independent claims 1, 12, 13 and 18. In particular, as further explained during the interview, in Chen the mode (speech communication or packet communication) of transmission of the information, which has been obtained based on the received and recognized search request, mimics the mode by which the search request was made (*See Id.*, col. 5, lines 22-27).

On the other hand, Toru discloses a method wherein an HTML sentence data obtained as a search result is returned in response to a voice request from a mobile terminal user. In particular, Toru discloses a mobile terminal system where “[i]n the mobile terminal 101, a voice signal inputted from an input part 109 is transmitted to a PHS [“Personal Handyphone System”] network 103 from a control part 110 and a communication part 111, and transmitted to a voice control host unit 108 from there via a control host unit 104 and an internet 105” (*see Id.*, Abstract). According to Toru, communication part 111 is part of “voice data transmitting means” (*see JPO translation of Toru at page 2, paragraphs [0013] through [0015]*). Toru further discloses that “[t]he search result HTML sentence data obtained as a result of that [processing of search request] is returned to the mobile terminal 101 and received by the control part 110 via the communication part 111 . . .” (*see Id.*, Abstract). Since communication part 111 is part of “voice data transmitting means”, then according to Toru, search results, which are transmitted via the communication part 111, are transmitted not by packet communication, but by voice communication.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 12, 13 and 18, as well as the dependent 2-10 and 14-17 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims), would not have been obvious from Chen and Toru at least for these reasons.

At the conclusion of the Interview, the Examiner indicated that the rejection would be reconsidered in view of the arguments presented above, and as discussed during the interview.

Accordingly, pending further review of the applied references by the Examiner, reconsideration and allowance of this application are believed to be in order, and such actions are

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hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through further personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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